

REMARKS

1. Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 5 to obviate the objections to the drawings.
2. Applicant has amended the claims to address the §112 rejections thereof, and to more clearly describe and claim the unique aspects of the present invention.
3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, and 11 stand rejected as anticipated by Fiala. Applicant traverses.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly point out the fact that the three drive shafts - the primary shaft, the secondary shaft, and the shaft from the electric motor - are all independent of the other. That is, each shaft is non-colinear to the other. While this arrangement does necessitate the use of a second transmission device, it allows for significant space savings and flexibility in engine design due to the more compact nature of the power generation system.

Fiala does not disclose such a structure. Fiala, as do other current art devices, has a main drive shaft that passes from the engine through a gear transmission and on to the wheels of the vehicle. This design eliminates the need for the second transmission device required in the present invention, but the straight line nature of the design does mandate a significant space requirement. Constructing the drive train with offset shafts as in the present invention allows the designer to significantly shorten the lineal space required for the drive train.

In order to anticipate a pending claim, a prior art reference must disclose each and every element in the pending claim. In order to render obvious claims, the prior art must disclose or indicate the elements of the subject claims. In this instance, there is no reference in the prior art that teaches or indicates three power drive shafts that are all

non-colinear as is claimed in the present claims. Accordingly, the prior art cannot be said to anticipate or to render obvious the present claims.

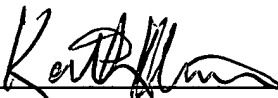
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant now asserts that all of the grounds for rejection have been traversed or overcome by amendment, and that all of the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of the objections and rejections, and solicits allowance of the present claims at an early date.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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